Andhra Pradesh in 1992 for five years with the World Bank credit of US $ 84 million. The implementation of the Programme was reviewed and based on the recommendations, the programme has been extended upto March, 1999.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is sending the annual action plan every year for the implementation of the programme and funds are released after examination by National AIDS Control Organisation. The Action Plan for 1997-98 for Andhra Pradesh has since been received and approved by the Union Government.

Vacant Posts

2326. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointment made in departments/ undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years as on date post-wise;

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe candidates appointed out of them;

(c) whether some posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are still lying vacant;

(d) if so, the details thereof post-wise;

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for filling the reserved posts; and

(f) the time by which vacant reserved posts are likely to be filled and the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Trade with China

2327. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sikkim has asked the Union Government for opening up the Nathua-La Pass in the State to facilitate trade with neighbouring China; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) and (b): Border trade through additional points, including Natu-La Pass, in Sikkim, continues to remain under discussion with the Chinese Side. At present, India and China have arrangements for border trade across Lipulekh Pass (Uttar Pradesh) and Shipki La Pass (Himachal Pradesh).

[Translation]

NAM Foreign Ministers Conference

2328. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by the Union Government on NAM Foreign Ministers' conference held in April, 1997 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): Sir, the total expenditure incurred on XII Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non Aligned Countries held in New Delhi from April 4 to 8, 1997 was Rs. 5,22,27,255/-. The amount of Rs. 3,46,67,981/- has already been paid whereas bills amounting to Rs.1,75,59,274/- are under process for payment. The expenditure is based on the bills received/ processed till August 1, 1997.

Shortage of Disposable Syringes

2329. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated May 21st, 1997 wherein it has been mentioned that there is shortage of disposable syringes and patients are asked to buy their own syringes in most of the hospitals including Central Government hospitals running in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether glass syringes were used for injunction to a patients in safdarjung Hospital;

(c) if so, the facts of the case reported therein;

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of disposable syringas in all the central hospitals running in National Capital Territory of Delhi to avoid the spread of fatal diseases like AIDS and Hepatitis B?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Safdarjung Hospital has reported that no records are maintained about the type of syringes used in case of a particular patient. Generally, syringes or needles used are disposable. However, glass syringes are

also used in the hospital after proper sterilisation.

(d) and (e): Guidelines on control of hospital acquired infections circulated to all the States/Union Territories, inter-alia, indicate that the injection should only be given by a auto-claved or pre-sterilized disposable needles and syringes. Both auto-claved - reusable and pre-sterilized disposable needles and syringes are equally safe and are in use in Central Government hospitals.

Radio Therapy

2330. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80 per cent of the cancer cases can be cured with radio therapy;

(b) whether only 190 external radio therapy machines are available in the country whereas their requirement is 800;

(c) if so, the reasons for availability of such a less number of such machines;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the availability of these machines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the available record there are 214 Cobalt Radio Therapy machines available in the Country. The Cobalt Therapy machines are very expensive and due to limited availability of funds the programme is being carried-out in phases.

(d) and (e) Efforts are being made to increase the number of tele-cobalt machines within the available budget. During the last three financial years financial assistance has been provided for setting up of 31 Cobalt Therapy Units. In addition, to above, financial assistance has also been provided to 31 Medical Colleges/Hospitals for upgradation of Development of oncology wing which inter-alia includes a provision of cobalt-60 teletherapy equipments.

[Translation]

Shortage of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries

2331. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no proper arrangement regarding medicines etc. in the dispensaries functioning under Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, whether due to poor arrangement there is shortage of medicines in the said dispensaries of Delhi and other parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to ensure availability of all essential medicines in CGHS dispensaries at every time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) By and large, most of the listed medicines in the CGHS formulary are presently available in the dispensaries run by the Central Government Health Scheme. However, occasional shortages which are encountered are made up by resorting to local purchase from the approved local chemists. In case of emergencies, an Authority Slip' is issued permitting the beneficiaries to collect the medicines from the authorised local chemists directly, without making any payment. Regular meetings are held with the Stores Organisation to assess the stock position of medicines and necessary steps taken to augment supplies where needed.

[English]

Garage Facility

2332 SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no provision of scooter garage in some of the Type-II and Type-III Government quarters in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether representations from various Resident's Welfare Associations/Area Welfare Officers/Residents have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no provision of scooter garages in:-

i) All Type II quarters.

ii) All Type III quarters upto two storeyed and ground floor quarters in more than three storeyed blocks.